



## The Final Years of Meccano and Binns Road 1965-1979

This page is from the original DTCA Website created by Peter Golden.

### 1965 -1969



From 1965 there was a period of decline in Dinky Toys. Now owned by Lines Brothers, the Binns Road factory continued to make Dinky Toys, Lines Brothers discontinuing the Triang Spot-on models. However, Hornby Trains were effectively discontinued and the range on trains consolidated with the Triang range. A range of larger scale aircraft was launched in 1965 with the Beechcraft S35 Bonanza.

In 1966 a series of American Cars was manufactured under licence in Hong Kong.

This period saw the introduction, in 1967, of the first TV related products. These were models from the Thunderbirds TV puppet series and included Lady Penelope's FAB 1 and Thunderbirds II (given numbers 100 and 101 respectively).

In 1968 a range of 1:38 larger scale military products originally designed by Lines Brothers for the US Market was introduced. In this year some dies were sold to Atamco in India and these became Nicky Toys. Various new features continued to be added to vehicles in the ongoing feature war against the competitors, e.g. 4 opening doors, stoplights, flashing indicators etc.

1969 saw the introduction of Speed Wheels on the Dinky Toys Cars etc. to compete with Mattel's Hot Wheels". In this year the company's name was changed to Meccano-Triang Limited."

### 1970-1979

By 1971 the new company owning Binns Road got into financial difficulties during a recession. The banks called in their loans and the whole of the Lines Brothers Group to go into liquidation. The factory in Binns Road and other assets of Meccano were transferred to a new company, Maoford Limited, which was then acquired by Airfix Industries. The trade mark Dinky Toys becomes Dinky™ and the marque *DINKY TOYS* has not been used since. 1971 also saw the introduction of Dinky Action Kits, which then appeared in the 1972 Dinky Toys catalogue. After the Bobingy factory closed, the latest dies were transferred to Binns Road and those models listed as British Dinky, French designed models were made in Britain (Citroen Dyane, Matra 630, Renault 16 etc...)



1972 also saw the introduction of the name, “The Big Planes” and a range of very basic models such as the 410 Bedford Royal Mail Van. This casting was also supplied in various colours to dealers to add their own advertising. This year also saw an expansion of the ranges of larger aircraft and larger scale Military vehicles.

In 1973 the first 1:25 scale car the Ford Capri was launched. This year also saw the introduction of large scale boats, unfortunately these did not float as they ran on wheels.

1974 was a low point in that this year had the lowest number of new issues since the post war period.

1976 saw the introduction of Cinderella’s Coach from the film “*The Slipper and the Rose*”. This was never a great seller along with the large scale boats.

1977 saw Silver Jubilee items released buses and taxis. In this year a cheap range of plastic “Convoy” trucks was launched. This also bought the use of new packaging, hanging boxes. The catalogue issue was No. 13.

1978 saw increasing financial problems for Airfix caused by losses at Binns Road. In 1978 Meccano lost £735,000, but Airfix still made a profit of £848,000.



The last retail catalogue, number 14 was released for 1979 (copyright 1978). This saw the release (and planned release) of more models made in Hong Kong and elsewhere. For example a classic model in the 1979 Catalogue was the never released 113 Steed's Jaguar. This had appeared as early as the 1977 catalogue but never made it into production, presumably due to the ongoing financial problems. 36 pre-production models were released. One of these is illustrated. Other production included models made in Hong Kong and Italy. 1978/9 saw two cardboard building kits, the 001 Space War Station and the 002 Blazing Inferno, design to increase the play value of Dinky Toys.

However, mounting losses caused Airfix to call it a day and the factory was closed on 30th November 1979.

## 1980 on; Post Mortem

There was a sit-in at the factory by staff which continued until March 1980 when Airfix obtained a court injunction. It is believed that poor strategic management and industrial relations at some sites in the Airfix group also contributed to the eventual demise of Meccano.

On the instructions of **MECCANO**<sup>®</sup>  
LIMITED

## Single Storey Factory BINNS ROAD, LIVERPOOL 13



The Binns road factory was put on sale. However, it was eventually sold for redevelopment and the factory was demolished in 1981.

For more information about the history of Meccano Limited, there is an excellent academic work “*Factory of Dreams*” ISBN 1-905472-08-0 by Kenneth D. Brown, who is Professor of Economic and Social History at Queens University Belfast.

Since 1982 the brand Dinky has fallen into several hands, it is bought by Universal International of Hong-Kong who also buys Matchbox. 1989 saw the launch by Matchbox of the Dinky Collection. In 1992 Tyco buys the Universal / Matchbox group and in 1996 Mattel buys Tyco, since then the Dinky brand has been owned by Mattel Inc. who issued four Matchbox Dinky in 2006 and in 2008 has launched a range of replica Dinky in the French and Belgium markets. This range is planned to go until 2011.

The DTCA's collecting interest ends with the closure of the Binns Road Factory in 1979.

The following gallery is a time line of images of Dinky Toys interest from 1965 to the factory's closure in 1979. Placing the mouse pointer over will display the description, clicking on an image will start the slide show.

## Timeline



NEW  
 NOUVEAU  
 NY  
 NIEUW  
**1965**  
 NUEVO  
 NEU  
 NUOVO  
 NOVO



**115**  
 Plymouth Fury Sports  
 4 1/8" — 122 mm.

**110**  
 Aston Martin  
 DB 5  
 4 1/8" — 111 mm.



**215**  
 Ford GT Racing Car  
 3 3/8" — 96 mm.

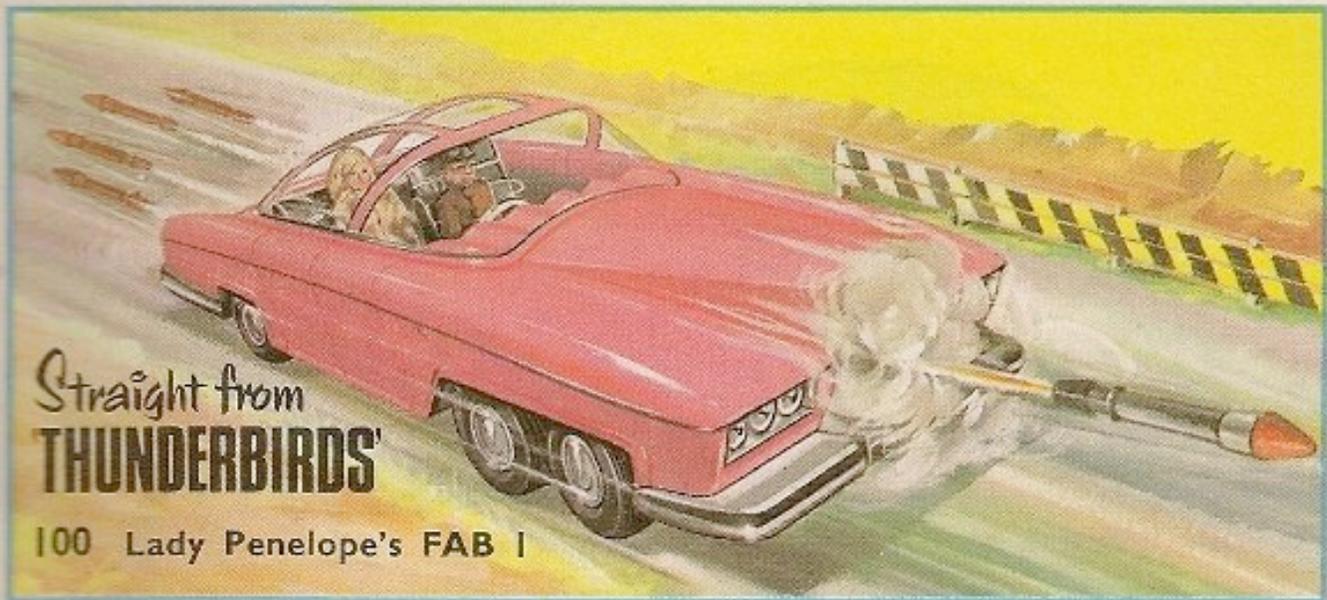


**476**  
 1913  
 Morris Oxford  
 (Bull-nosed)  
 3 3/8" — 92 mm.



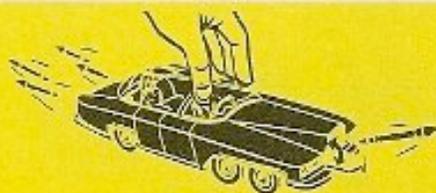
**486**  
 Dinky Beets  
 Morris Oxford  
 (Bull-nosed)  
 3 3/8" — 92 mm.



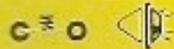


Straight from  
**THUNDERBIRDS**

100 Lady Penelope's FAB I



**DINKY**  
TOYS



5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (147 mm.)

DIRECT FROM  
**CAPTAIN SCARLET**  
AND THE  
MYSTERONS

1ST  
AGAIN!

Turbo-jet Engine Sound



103  
Spectrum Patrol Car

Aerial  
Turbo-Jet Engine Sound  
Suspension



C = O

4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (121 mm.)

**DINKY**  
TOYS

**NEW**  **NEW**

ALL THE MODELS ON THIS PAGE ARE  
EQUIPPED WITH FREE-ROLLING

**SPEEDWHEELS**

# DINKY TOYS

5½" (137 mm.)



189 Lamborghini Marzal



165 Ford Capri



4" (102 mm.)



217 Alfa Romeo Scarabeo OS1



5½" (132 mm.)



173 Pontiac Parisienne With retractable aerials



3½" (90 mm.)



5½" (133 mm.)



175 Cadillac Eldorado



174 Ford Mercury Cougar  
With retractable aerial



4½" (112 mm.)

# DINKY TOYS



217 Alfa Romeo Scarabeo OSI

WITH *SPRINGS*



3½" (90 mm.)

**NEW**



220 Ferrari P5

WITH *SPRINGS*



3½" (96 mm.)



250 Police Mini Cooper S



2½" (75 mm.)

**NEW**



3½" (96 mm.)



218 Lotus Europa

WITH *SPRINGS*

**NEW**



4½" (113 mm.)



221 Corvette Stingray

WITH *SPRINGS* and Swivelling Headlights



5½" (132 mm.)



252 R.C.M.P. Car WITH *SPRINGS*

**Dinky TOYS**

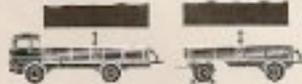
WITH OPENING CAB DOORS **397 mm. LONG**



**917 Mercedes-Benz Truck and Trailer**

**10 SPECIAL FEATURES**

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Opening Doors               | 6 Detachable Cones on Gas Bottle  |
| 2 Detailed Interior Seats     | 7 Trailer couples to Truck        |
| 3 Wing Mirror                 | 8 Opening Tailgate                |
| 4 Jewelled Headlights         | 9 Suspension on Truck and Trailer |
| 5 Opening Cab Roof Ventilator | 10 Bead wheels pivot on Trailer   |



397 mm.



**945 A.E.C. Fuel Tanker ESSO**



266 mm.

**NEW for '72**



115 mm. 92 mm. 62 mm.



*(no deck required)*

**784 Dinky Goods Train Set**

**SPEEDWHEELS**

*may be used on OO/HO track*

22 (non motorised)





Ring round with **Yellow Pages**

Let your fingers do the walking!

**Dinky**  
TOYS

Atlantean Bus

295

DIE-CAST  
METAL

680



681

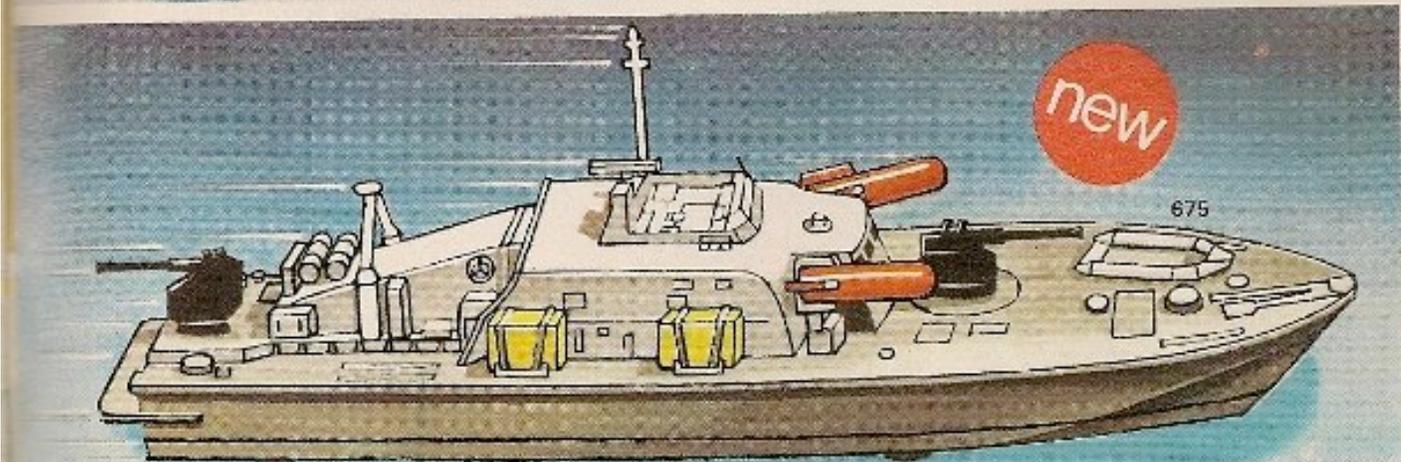


682



680 Heret Armoured Car 80 mm  
 681 D.U.K.W. 127 mm  
 682 Stalwart Load Carrier 103 mm

Models 680, 681 and 682 also available as 677 Task Force Set.



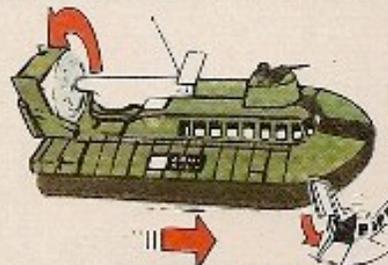
675 Motor Patrol Boat 170 mm



**FIRES MISSILES!**

new

281



281 Military Hovercraft 139 mm 29

# Dinky TOYS

**784 Dinky Goods Train Set**  
(non motorised) (no track required)  
May be used on OO/HO track

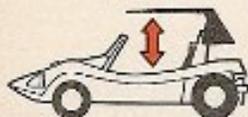


116 mm    92 mm    92 mm



784

**227 Beach Buggy 105 mm**  
with detachable hood



227

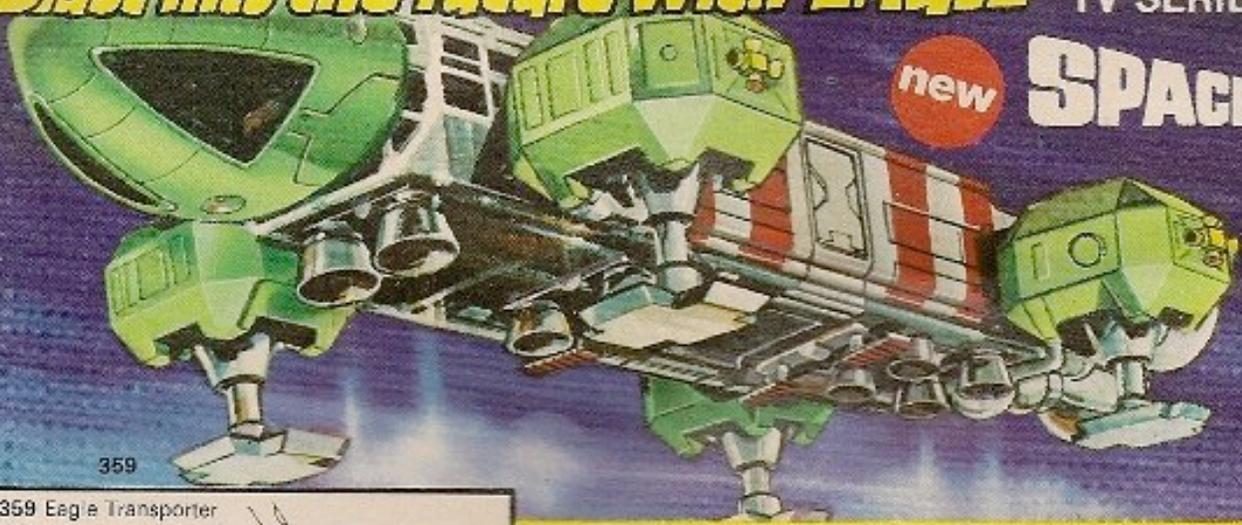
new

7

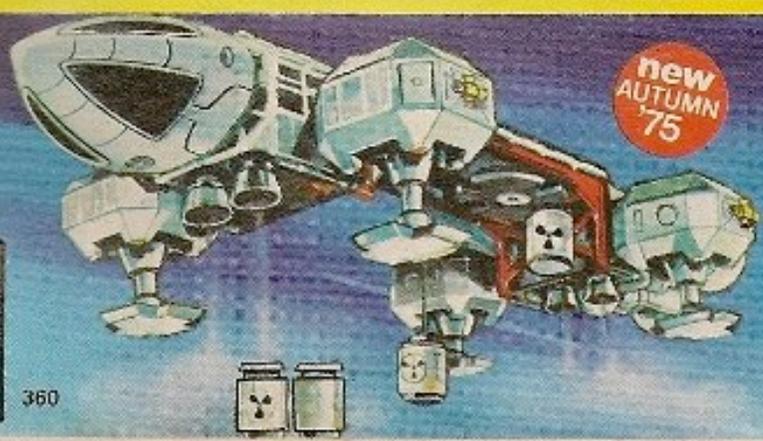
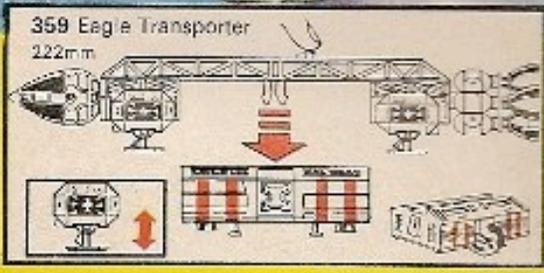
# Blast into the future with **EAGLE**

Gerry Anderson's  
**FROM TV SERIES**

**new SPACE: 1999**



359



360



# A fairytale come true...

## CINDERELLA'S COACH

AS FEATURED IN THE ROYAL COMMAND FILM

### the Slipper and the Rose

THE STORY OF CINDERELLA



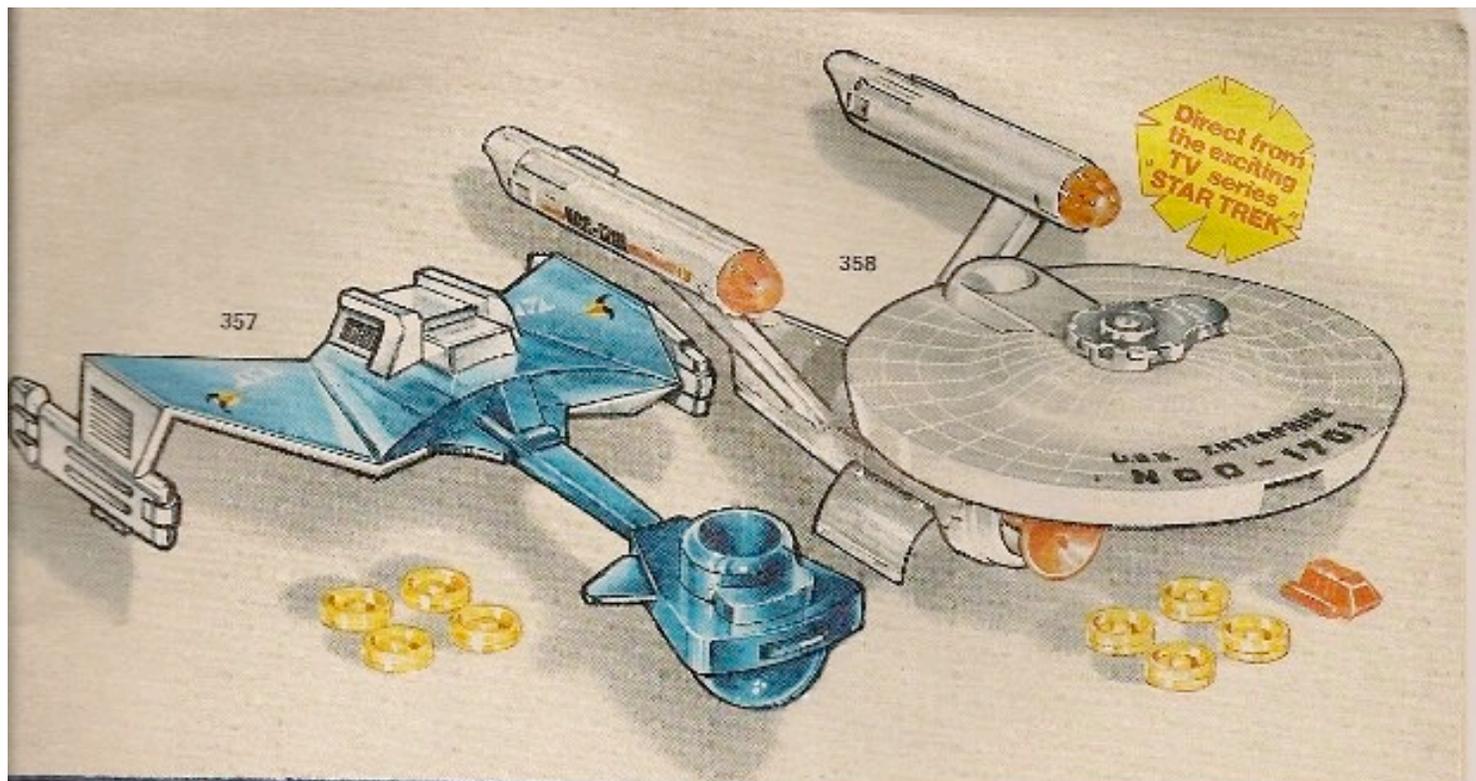
new

MODEL No. 111 CINDERELLA'S COACH 242mm.

© 1976 Paroline Co-Productions Limited All Rights Reserved

*Starring Geriiza Conway  
as Cinderella*



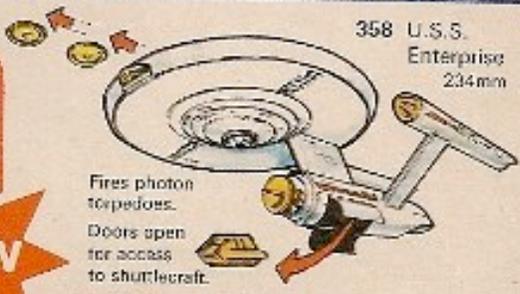


**Dinky**®  
DIE CAST TOYS



**357 Klingon Battle Cruiser**  
220mm  
Direct from the exciting  
TV series "STAR TREK"

**new**



**358 U.S.S. Enterprise**  
234mm

Fires photon  
torpedoes.  
Doors open  
for access  
to shuttlecraft.

© 1978 Paramount Pictures Corporation.

# Dinky Builds

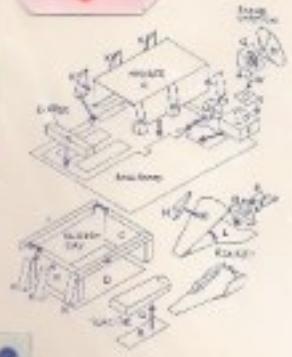
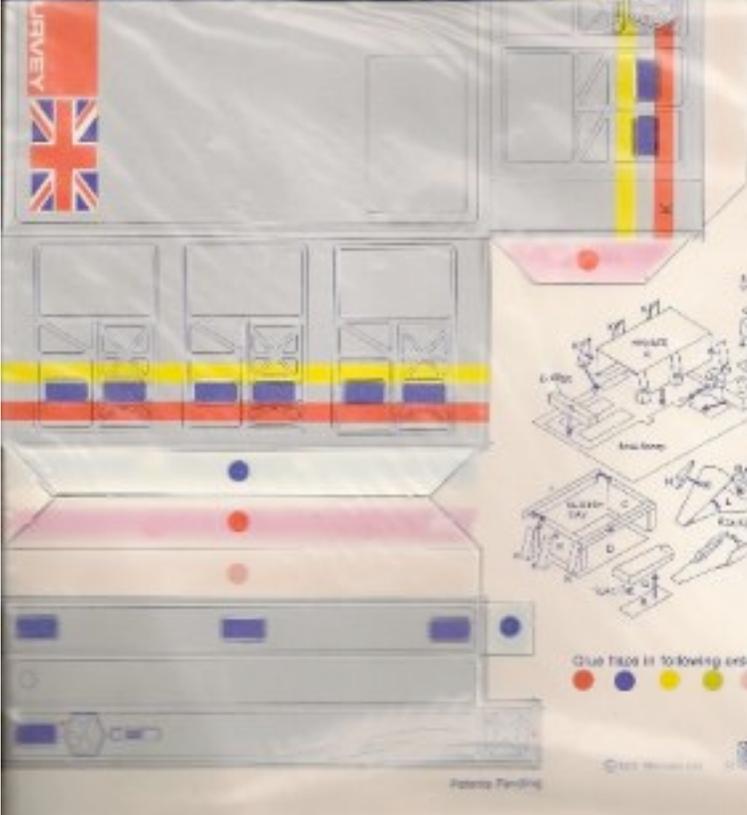
## SPACE WAR STATION

200



A PLAY SCENE FOR YOUR DINKY TOYS

★ NO MESS  
PRE-GLUED TABS  
FOR EASY CONSTRUCTION



Glue tabs in following order



Patents Pending

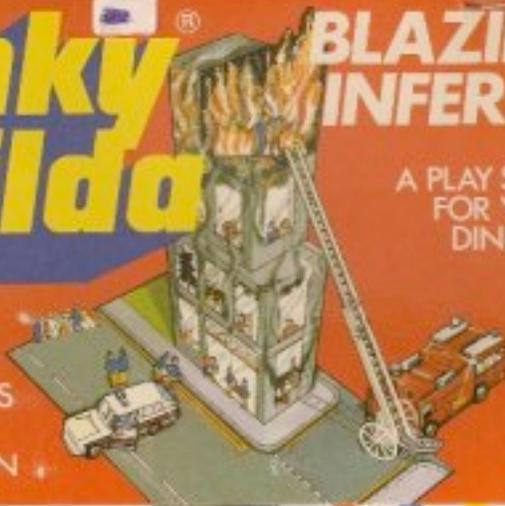
© 1988 Dinky Toys Ltd

# Dinky Builda

## BLAZING INFERNO

A PLAY SCENE FOR YOUR DINKY TOYS

★ NO MESS  
PRE-GLUED TABS  
FOR EASY  
CONSTRUCTION



Dinky MODELS  
NOT PROVIDED



**New**

**New**

**New**



<p>115 U.B. Taxi 86 mm</p>		<p>120 Happy Cab 86 mm</p>
	<p>390 Customised Transit Van 133 mm</p>	